

- Group III: Claims 3 and 18, drawn to a Ti alloy containing diffusion layer and method of production thereof;
- Group IV: Claim 4, drawn to a Cu-Ni alloy containing diffusion layer;
- Group V: Claims 9 and 11-16, drawn to a method of producing a metal containing diffusion layer including application of a reducing agent; and
- Group VI: Claims 19-23, drawn to a method of producing a metal material containing a diffusion layer including application of a seeding agent.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the identified inventions for examination. The Examiner has taken the position that the above-noted inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, in his view, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature for each group is not commonly shared and therefore according to the Examiner, the inventions or groups of inventions lack unity as they lack the same or corresponding technical features.

Applicant's Response:

Again, applicant elects without traverse the species identified by the Examiner as Group V. It is applicant's understanding and belief that claims 9 and 11-16 read on the elected species. Therefore, applicant requests examination of claims 9 and 11-16 in the present application.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any further questions or comments regarding applicant's response, the applicant encourages him to call applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,




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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted, via EFS-Web, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, on December 3, 2008.



Randhir Garcha

JPC/rg